

NEW YORK NEWSDAY

SEP 09 1987

obituary

Carter W. Clarke, 90, a retired brigadier general and former CIA official who helped persuade New York Gov. Thomas Dewey not to make the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor an issue in Dewey's 1944 bid for the presidency, died of a heart attack Sept. 3 at his home in Clearwater, Fla. Gen. Clarke, whose 39 year career was spent mostly in intelligence work, had been chief of the War Department's security division and deputy chief of military intelligence during World War II. In 1944 he was made confidential courier between the Army chief of staff, Gen. George C. Marshall, and Dewey, the Republican running against President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Gens. Marshall and Clarke convinced Dewey not to inject into the campaign the Pearl Harbor disaster, and the evidence that the military may have had advance warning of the attack and had passed it on to the White House, because a public airing of the issue would let the Japanese know we were intercepting and reading their coded messages. Gen. Clarke was a special assistant to CIA Director Allen Dulles for several years, then was commanding general of the Southwest Command in Japan from 1950 to 1953. In 1952, he was hospitalized for several weeks with face and chest burns after Korean and Japanese Communists threw acid at him in Suita, Japan. He retired from active duty in 1954. Survivors include his wife, Jessie, a son, retired Brig. Gen. Carter W. Clarke, Jr., both of Clearwater, two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

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